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Vol. 20, No. 11/December 2, 1997

Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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From the Editor

As Others See Us

Each week, a number of school groups visit the Neyland-Thompson Sports Center as part of a campus tour. They come from all over East Tennessee by the busload.

The tour generally includes a look at the Tennessee Hall of Fame Exhibit, a chance to run on the Robert E. White Indoor Practice Field and a look at the Frank and Stella Percy Weight Room. There's also a trip to the Neyland Stadium Press Box and Thompson-Boling Arena.

The tours have proven to be quite popular and the responses we get are often quite intersting.

Here's what some of the children from the second grade at Mount Olive Elementary School in South Knoxville said about their trips, in letters to Ellie Wilson, their tour guide.

"Thank you for letting us play on the indoor practice field. I liked it a lot. And I think Peyton Manning is cute.
Your dearest friend, Mary Beth"

"Thank you for letting us have a good time and for letting us go to the press box. I liked it. Thank you for letting us see the video.
Love, Miranda"

"Thank you for letting us watch that video. Thank you for letting us run on the practice field.
Love, Andrew"

"Thank you for letting us go to the indoor practice field. The weight room was fun, too.
Love, Tiffany"

"Thank you for letting us run on the football field. Tahnk you for showing us around.
Love, Ryan"

"Thank you for letting us play on the indoor practice field and go in the press box.
Love, Jayme"

"Thank you for showing the video. I had a great time.
Your friend, Ronald."

"Thank you for shwoing us the indoor practice field and letting us go play on it.
Your friend, Chris"

"Thank you for setting up the football field.
Love, Jordan"

"Thank you for setting up the movie.
Love, Jerry"

"Thank you for letting us come to UT. It was fun. I like UT.
Love, Megan"

That's a look at the impact the University of Tennessee and the Athletic Department had on one group of youngsters on one November afternoon. Hope you enjoyed it.

—Tom Mattingly

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A Look At The Vols...

Last Line of Defense - Cory Gaines

He is usually the final defender to have chance at tackle when a play has been broken for big yardage against Tennessee. Fortunately for Vols fans, he has been there to make almost every touchdown-saving tackle.

Cory Gaines is the free safety for the Vols and is the last line of defense. When appears that somebody might break a play for a long gain, Look for No. 30 to be there to make the stop for the Vols.

During the game, Gaines doesn't necessarily think about making game-saving tackles, but in the film room, his contribution to the team stands out.

"In the game, I don't about because everything goes by so fast," he said. "I am just making tackles. But when I go back and watch the film and see that nobody else was behind me it makes you think about it. But during the game, I am just trying to make plays.

"The coach always tells me, 'If they break, you have to make the tackle or it is all over.' I take a lot of pride in making the touchdown saving tackles and being in the back."

Gaines has been making the plays. Case in point came during the Vols 30-24 win over UCLA during the second game of the season.

UCLA's Cade McNown completed a short pass to Keith Brown, who then was able to allude would-be Vol tacklers. Brown had broke free in the secondary, but Gaines was there for the the stop.

Gaines also came up with another big play during the UCLA game. The Vol offense was struggling during the first quarter, but the Vols had a 2-0 lead thanks to a safety by Leonard Little.

Later in the first quarter, UCLA recovered a fumble and had the ball on its own 42-yard line. A 14-yard gain moved to the ball down the Tennessee 44.

But the blitz was called on the next play, and Little came through the middle of the UCLA offensive line and forced McNown to make a hurried pass. He threw the ball over the middle and Gaines was there for the interception. Fifty-seven yards later the Vols had a 9-0 lead. It was Gaines' first career interception as a Vol, and he turned it into touchdown.

"It was a present," Gaines said after the game. "We had the blitz on and Leonard had McNown. I thought he was going to go down. He threw it up, and I was there to grab it then I took the other way for the score."

That is one of two touchdowns the Vol defense has been able to score. Dwayne Goodrich scored the other one when he returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown the the Vols' 31-17 win over Mississippi. It concluded a stretch at the beginning to of the third quarter when the Vols scored two touchdowns in 1:38 seconds to which gave them a 21-3 lead.

Through nine games this season the Vols have forced 17 turnovers, nine fumble recoveries and eight interceptions.

"Getting turnovers and making something happen with them gives the defense a lot of confidence,"

Cory Gaines has been there to prevent the big plays from the opposition. Here he breaks up a pass intended for Georgia's Hines Ward in the Vols 38-13 win in Oct.

Gaines said. "As a defense we take pride in getting turnovers and scoring on defense. We try to do that every game."

Part of the success of the Vol defense is due to the experience the team has especially the defensive backfield.

Gaines, fellow safety Tori Noel and cornerback Terry Fair are all seniors and have seen significant playing time during the careers at Tennessee.

"Our experience helps us lot," Gaines said. "We have been through things. We have seen all the routes there are to see. It gives a jump start and we usually know what other teams are going to do."

Gaines and Noel have been very active from their safety spots for the Vols. Noel recorded a team high 12 tackles in the Vols 30-22 win over Arkansas and is the team's third leading tackler with 65 hits in nine games. Right behind him is Gaines, who has totalled 54 tackles in nine game.

"During the spring Tori and I talked about how we were going to be involved with the defense," Gaines said. "We both missed spring practice with injuries, but we were talking all spring that this is our season. Together we came in with the mind set that we were going to make some plays and big tackles."

Gaines has been making the plays. He recorded a season-high eight tackles against Mississippi which tied him for the team high with linebacker Al Wilson, who leads the team with 74 tackles. He had seven stops in the UCLA win, and five in the Vols win over Alabama, which was the third straight win over the Tide for Tennessee.

Gaines also scooped up a fumble in the 52-17 win over Texas Tech that eventually led to a Jeff Hall field goal for Tennessee, caused a fumble in the 30-22 win over Arkansas that help stall a Razorback drive.

The strong play of the safeties and the rest of the Vol defenders has enabled the Vols to hold their opponents to only 88.4 yards rushing per game.This ranks the Vols No. 9 nationally in run defense. The defense has held opponents to under 100 rushing yards seven times and went through a four game stretch of holding opponents to only 67.4 yards rushing.

"In our run defense, our safeties play a big part in the support," he said. "The coaches have talked to us about making plays and getting involved when the play comes our way."

In fact Gaines, has made his presence felt since the first time he took the field in the Orange and White.

He had not played a down the yet in the 1994 season, when he was forced into action in the Alabama game due to an injury to Raymond Austin. The result was nine tackles which tied him for a team high with Jason Parker.

"I think I played pretty well for first game," Gaines said after the game in 1994. "I made some mistakes, but to get thrown into a situation like I was against Alabama, I did okay."

Since then, Gaines has been used primarily in a backup role, but seeing action in every game from his sophomore season to now. This season he earned the starting role as the Vols free safety and is leading the Vols defensive backs.

"Cory Gaines is our quarterback back there," Vol secondary coach Kevin Ramsey said. "He's the guy who helps the young guys pick up on the little things like knowing every formation and the tendencies to get a jump start."

Gaines sees himself as a scout during a game. Since he is back from the play most of the time, he can the play develop and pick up on what the offensive is trying to do.

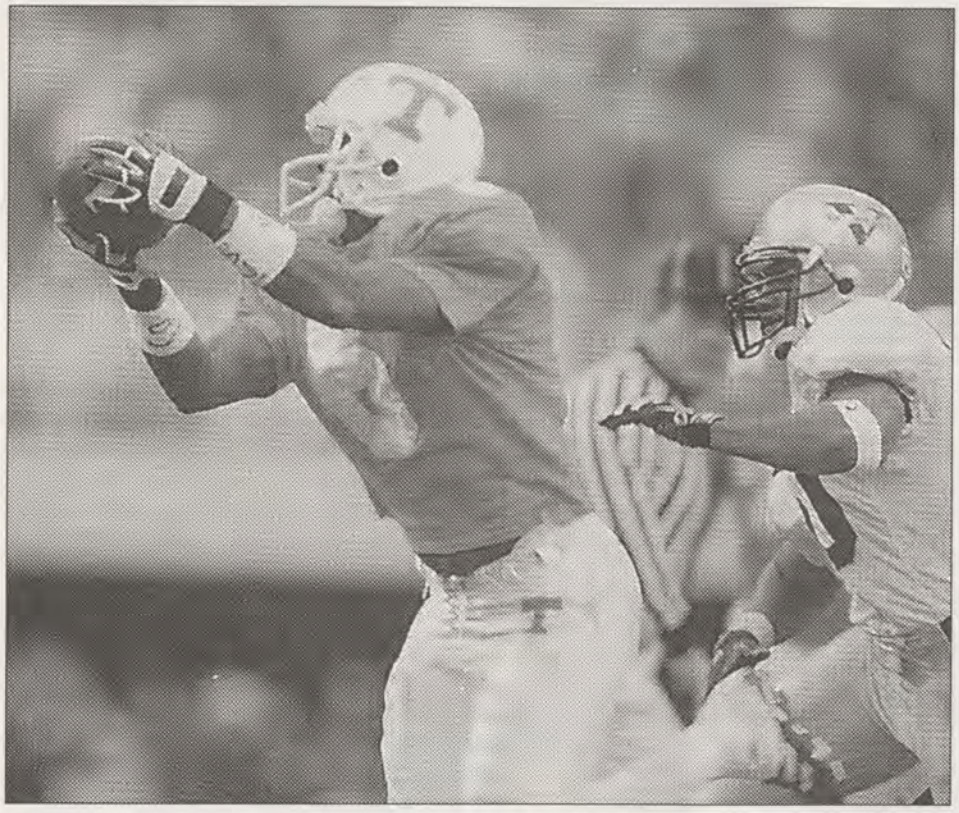
"I tell some of the guys what I see during the game," he said. "I tell them about holes I saw open or receivers who are open and get it corrected with coaches. Then we make the adjustments we need to make."

—Rob Hardin

"THE COACH ALWAYS TELLS ME, 'IF THEY BREAK, YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE TACKLE OR IT IS ALL OVER.' I TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN MAKING THE TOUCHDOWN SAVING TACKLES AND BEING IN THE BACK."

—FREE SAFETY CORY GAINES

SEC EAST CHAMPS!
VOLS 17, VANDERBILT 10



Wide receiver Jeremaine Copeland scored the Vols' first TD off a 33-yard pass from Peyton Manning.

(See Fulmer File p. 8)

Knoxville, Tenn., Shields-Watkins Field, Nov. 29, 1997 -- "Rivalry games" are like this. You know, it's tough right to the end and you never know exactly what's going to happen.

That's what took place today at Neyland Stadium in front of 106,683, fourth largest in UT history and ninth largest in NCAA history. Vanderbilt scored first and last, but the Vols scored enough in between to take a 17-10 victory that sent the good guys to Atlanta for the SEC Championship game against Auburn on Dec. 6.

It was an emotional day at the Vols' home by the river, beginning with the "Vol Walk" to the stadium and culminating with a tumultuous post-game salute to the fans by an appreciative Vol squad.

The Vols had a number of heroes today on both sides of the ball, just like you'd expect. Jamal Lewis rushed 36 times for 196 yards with a long dash of 25. Jeremaine Copeland had a Vol touchdown among his three grabs for 54 yards, a 33-yarder in the second quarter that gave the Vols the lead for good at 7-3. Jeff Hall added a 19-yard field goal just before the half and Peyton Manning, winner of the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award announced earlier this week, had a one-yard run for a score, on which he faked Lewis up the middle and sauntered to his left for six points. Just like he did at Alabama in 1995.

Defensively, Leonard Little, one of 28 seniors honored before the game, was in on nine hits and had a sack for minus-9.

"We have worked hard the past three years, and it has paid off," Little said. "They did a good job of getting some yards in the second half, but we stopped them when we needed to.

"We put things together when we needed to. The Tennessee fans are great. They have stood behind me since I got here. I wish I could spend the rest of life here, but I have to move on."

> ***"IT FEELS GOOD TO WIN A CHAMPIONSHIP, AND IT IS EXCITING FOR OUR SENIORS. WE KNEW THIS GAME WOULD BE A DEFENSIVE STRUGGLE, AND THAT EVERY GAME WOULD BE TOUGH GOING DOWN THE STRETCH."***
>
> ***—STRONG SAFETY TORI NOEL***

Dwayne Goodrich was all over the field, with a fumble recovery and two interceptions. Raynoch Thompson had eight tackles with a tackle for loss and Corey Terry added six tackles and a tackle for loss. Cory Gaines, rookie Jerrod Hayden and Tori Noel had five hits each.

Vanderbilt won the field position war early on and led 3-0 just into the second quarter before Manning had the Vols moving goalward with 8:15 left at the Vol 39. Manning found Peerless Price for 15, Lewis gained 14 yards on three carries, Price got four more on a screen right and the Vols were at the VU 33. Manning then hit a streaking Copeland across the middle for six points and, with Jeff Hall's PAT, a 7-3 lead.

"It was a blitz read. Peyton put it on the money, and I took it to the house," Copeland said. "Our defense played outstanding and pulled it out for us. We did what we had to do to win."

The Vols moved to a field goal on the next possession, keyed by a 19-yard pass to Andy McCullough on a play similar to the one on which Copeland had scored earlier. The capper came on a 19-yard field goal by Hall.

The Vols lost their first possession of the third quarter to a fumble, but Goodrich, who always seems to be where the ball is, intercepted Vandy QB Damian Allen and the Vols had it right back at the VU 41.

"I just happened to be in the right place and dove for the ball and came up with it," Goodrich said. "The offense helped us out last week, so it was our turn to return to the favor this week. Vanderbilt made some plays in the second half, but we stopped them. The defense likes to have the game in its hands."

Lewis then did his best hoops impersonation, dropping a pitch right but getting a fortuitous bounce and gaining 11. He then hit the middle for 12 and Manning found Price for eight. Lewis carried it to the two and three plays later Manning circled left end for the score. It was 17-3 with 7:08 to go in the third quarter.

Vanderbilt made it interesting, cutting the margin to 17-10 moments later, but Vol defenders were up to the challenge. Buck Buxton knocked down a third-down pass forcing a punt and Hayden stopped a third-and-two at the VU 11 to force another kick.

When Vanderbilt had one last chance, Thompson had a key hit, Bill Duff and Jonathan Brown deflected passes and the Vols got it at the VU 22. All that was left were three "kneel downs" and the celebration was on.

"It feels good to win a championship, and it is exciting for our seniors," Noel said. "We knew this game would be a defensive struggle, and that every game would be tough going down the stretch."

Manning's 12 completions tied him with Georgia's Eric Zeier for the career lead in completions. Both now have 838.

"We thought we had to run it some," Manning said. "We had to pop some runs. With eight guys at the line, you can't pass every down. We wanted to make it a physical ball game. I think we did that today. This is what we have been playing for all year long. All we wanted was an opportunity to get the ring, and we still have that. You want to go and take advantage of the opportunity."

GAME NOTES: Manning and Nash were named to the Walter Camp All-America team... Lewis moved to fourth on UT's single-season rushing list with 1237 yards with six 100-yard rushing games this season... Lewis' 36 carries rank fourth at UT in single-game attempts... Goodrich now has six fumble recoveries and six interceptions in his career... Manning's 3446 yards passing this season is the fourth highest total in SEC single season history... With the SEC title game remaining, Manning needs only 48 yards (10,828 to 10,875) to surpass Danny Wuerffel as the No. 5 all-time passer in NCAA history... With Manning's 12 completions, he is now tied with Eric Zeier for SEC career completions with 838... Manning is now second all-time in touchdown responsibility in the SEC with 97, behind only Wuerffel... Little recorded his 6.5th sack of the season and 26th of his career... The Vols have tied the UT record for sacks in a season with 42 tying the mark set by the 1995 team... Tennessee set an NCAA season average attendance record with 639,227 in six homes, an average of 106,538 per game. LATE NOTE: The Lady Vols hoopsters won at Stanford by 88-70.Tennessee defeated Appalachian State 69-46 on Friday night at Thompson-Boling Arena.

--Volunteers Magazine Staff

Tennessee captains Peyton Manning (left) and Leonard Little (right) led the Vols to a 10-1 1997 mark. It is the third consecutive 10-win season, a feat last accomplished by the 1970-72 Vols. UT Photo Services, Sarah Burnley.

Tennessee Statistics vs. Vanderbilt

Team Statistics	UT	VA
First Downs	19	13
Rushing	11	12
Passing	7	1
Penalty	1	0
Rushing Attempts	47	39
Yards Gained	208	213
Yards Lost	28	33
Net Yards Rushing	180	180
Net Yards Passing	159	35
Passes Attempted	27	24
Passes Completed	12	7
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	74	63
Total Net Yards	339	215
Average Gain	4.58	3.41
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-1
Penalties No-Yards	2-20	7-47
Punts-Average	7-39.4	8-33.8
Punt Returns-Yards	1-1	5-42
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-57	3-37
Int. Returns-Yards	2-4	1-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Time of Possession	32:02	27:58
Third Down Conversions	8-18	2-14
Fourth Down Conversions	0-0	2-3
Sacks By-Yards	1-9	2-15

VANDERBILT	**0**	**3**	**7**	**0**	**— 10**
TENNESSEE	**0**	**10**	**7**	**0**	**— 17**

2-V: Markham, FG 47.
Drive: 20 yards, 5 plays, 1:56 possession, 14:56 on clock.
2-T: Copeland, pass from Manning 33. Hall kick.
Drive: 61 yards, 7 plays, 3:35 possession, 4:40 on clock.
2-T: Hall, FG 19.
Drive: 41 yards, 8 plays, 2:37 possession, :22 on clock.
3-T: Manning, run 1. Hall kick.
Drive: 41 yards, 8 plays, 3:27 possession, 7:08 on clock.
3-V: McGrath, run 14. Markham kick.
Drive: 71 yards, 11 plays, 4:09 possession, 2:59 on clock.

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Lewis	36	198	2	196	0	25
Bryson	2	0	0	0	0	0
Price	1	0	5	-5	0	-5
Manning	8	10	21	-11	1	7

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
Manning	27	12	1	159	1	33

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Price	4	40	0	15
Copeland	3	54	1	33
Nash	2	21	0	17
Bryson	1	28	0	28
McCullough	1	19	0	19
Lewis	1	-3	0	-3

Punting	No.	Yards.	Avg.	Long
Hogue	7	276	39.4	49

Field Goals	Att.	Made	Long
Hall	2	1	19

All Returns	Punts No.	Yds.	LP	Kickoffs No.	Yds	LP	Int. No.	Yds.	LP
Goodrich				1	17	17	2	4	4
C. Wilson				2	40	21			
Fair	1	1	1						

Fulmer File...

1997 Vanderbilt Game

The happiness in our dressing room after the Vanderbilt game was appropriately subdued because our players and coaches each recognized that the job isn't complete.

Our season-long goal has been to win the Southeastern Conference championship, not just the Eastern Division segment. Coming home first in the East is a huge step, but not the final one. We had one night to reflect on our victory over Vanderbilt. From that point, our thoughts are solely of Atlanta and the Auburn Tigers.

Defeating Vanderbilt 17-10 was elating. This is a tough conference we play in, loaded with good coaches and players from top to bottom. I'm pleased when the Vols defeat any SEC opponent by so much as a single point, no questions asked. When we're talking about traditional games, like Vanderbilt and Kentucky, that goes double.

Ever since I was a player, Vanderbilt has been a tough nut to crack. They come at Tennessee with an attitude of letting it all hang out. The 1997 Commodores were no exception. Somebody asked in the postgame press conference if we gave any thought toward trying to score on our last possession, after we took over on downs at the Vanderbilt 22. The answer was absolutely not.

Our only consideration was how we could walk off the field with a victory. With Vanderbilt out of timeouts, we knew we would win the game by downing the ball three times. We had no option. It was cut and dried all the way.

Except for some anxious moments during the game, Saturday was a storybook day for the Vols. The Walk to the Stadium was fabulous. Lined up 10 deep along Yale Avenue, the fans paid a heartfelt tribute to the seniors for all they accomplished in their years at UT.

When the game ended, we reciprocated, players and coaches. We stayed out on the field and let the fans know how much we appreciate their support. Talk about support. What can you say about a following that shows up game after game in record numbers? It was good to learn our average attendance this season - 106,538 - set an NCAA record.

"Defeating Vanderbilt 17-10 was elating. This is a tough conference we play in, loaded with good coaches and players from top to bottom. I'm pleased when the Vols defeat any SEC opponent, by so much as a single point, no questions asked. When we're talking about traditional games, like Vanderbilt and Kentucky, that goes double."

— Phillip Fulmer

There were several times during the Vanderbilt game I thought we were on the verge of breaking it open. Turnovers doomed our hopes of winning comfortably, though. It seemed every time we had things going our way, we would cough up the ball. Of course, Vanderbilt did likewise which helped us to at least win the game, with or without a margin for error.

Like any other coach, I detest turnovers. Nevertheless, Vanderbilt's defense obviously had something to do with the fact we gave up an interception and lost two fumbles. So give Coach Woody Widenhofer, his staff and players credit for another outstanding defensive performance, which is just exactly what we have come to expect from the Commodores.

As of Saturday, my information had been pretty well limited to the Tigers' offense. It's clear that they have a talented quarterback, a big and physical front line, receivers who make big plays, and a quality running game. Also, their placekicker does his job under pressure.

We will work hard in practice this week to get ourselves ready for a demanding game against an Auburn team that survived the highly competitive SEC Western Division. It should be an exciting atmosphere Saturday night when we hope to find a sea of Orange (Tennessee's shade, not Auburn's) in the Georgia Dome.

— Phillip Fulmer

The University of Tennessee Proudly Salutes Its 1997 National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Honorees

Bowden Wyatt
1997 Hall of Fame Inductee

- Won Titles in Three Conferences -Southeastern, Big Sky, and Southwest Conferences
- 1950 Skyline Conference Coach of the Year at Wyoming
- 1954 Southwest Conference Coach of the Year at Arkansas
- 1956 SEC and National Coach of the Year at Tennessee
- Elected as Player to College Football Hall of Fame 1972
- Elected as Coach to College Football Hall of Fame 1997
- Overall record of 99-56-5
- Joins Amos Alonzo Stagg and Bobby Dodd as the only men inducted as a player and a coach

Peyton Manning
1997 National Scholar-Athlete

- 1997 Cum Laude Graduate in Speech Communication
- Burger King Scholar-Athlete
- All-SEC Academic Honor Roll (1995, 96)
- AFCA "Good Works" Team
- 1997 Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Campus Leadership and Service
- Selected Phi Beta Kappa
- Honorary Chairman, MS READ-A-THON
- Spokesperson for "Stay in School" Campaign
- 1997 GTE District IV All-Academic Team
- Football News First Team All-America Quarterback

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Herman Hickman (1959) • Bobby Dodd (1959) • Bob Suffridge (1961)
Nathan W. Dougherty (1967) • George Cafego (1969) • Hank Lauricella (1981)
Doug Atkins (1985) • Johnny Majors (1987) • Bob Johnson (1989)
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Neyle Sollee (1959) • Bob Johnson (1967) • Don Denbo (1970) • Mike Mauck (1976)

Most Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football

Lindsey Nelson (1988) • Bob Woodruff (1989)

National High School Scholar Athlete, Southern Region

Todd Helton (1992)

Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols...

A Look at Special Bowl Games

One of the nice things about having your own column is that you don't have to solicit anybody else's opinion or viewpoint. You can be absolutely despotic about it, which is what I am about to do in selecting Tennessee's three greatest bowl victories of all time. But I have the notion that the ones I would select would rank high on the lists of most of the folks who have been following the Vols since they first began making these postseason expeditions almost six decades ago. They seem to stand out, as the old saying goes, like blue bananas.

First off, there is a technicality that has to be disposed of. Tennessee's first postseason appearance was in the New York Charity Game at Yankee Stadium in December 1931. That 13-0 triumph over NYU was a wonderful accomplishment, but it wasn't a bowl game. That had to wait more than seven years, which brings us to the first of the chosen three.

ORANGE BOWL, Jan. 1, 1939
Tennessee 17, Oklahoma 0

I picked this one for several reasons, one of which was its historic importance. The Vols had some great teams throughout the late 1920s and early 1930s but there was only one bowl, the Rose, in those days and something (usually a tie with Kentucky) kept blocking the road to Pasadena. So when the 1938 team raged through the regular season with a 10-0-0 record and got an Orange Bowl bid, Knoxville was shooting out the lights and dancing on the tables. I don't know that there has ever been more football excitement in the old town.

And, for once, the event lived up to its advance billing. This was a great Oklahoma team the Vols faced on New Year's Day, 10-0-0 just like UT, but the tone was set on the very first play from scrimmage when the great Vol tailback, George Cafego, took out the Sooner's All-America end, Waddy Young, with a perfect block that freed wingback Bob Foxx for a long gain on a reverse play.

It may have been the roughest game in UT history, with players being ejected on both sides for fighting. But the Vol performance was as good as any in Vol bowl annals, and the great names of that era showed up in the next day's headlines. Cafego led the first scoring drive. Foxx and Babe Wood scored touchdowns, and captain Bowden Wyatt kicked a 22-yard field goal.

COTTON BOWL, Jan. 1, 1951
Tennessee 20, Texas 14

The Vols had gone 10-1 in the 1950 season and were gearing up for a run at the national championship the following season. But they were a seven-point underdog to a powerful Texas team, and it took a light note by General Bob Neyland to break the pre-game tension. The Longhorn band had struck up "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You" as Neyland was giving his team its final instructions.

"When this one is over," the General quipped, "they'll be playing the 'Tennessee Waltz.'"

All-America tailback Hank Lauricella brought the crowd to its feet with a 75-yard run from scrimmage in the first quarter that ranks with the McEver and Butler runs in Vol legend. That set up a Herky Payne to John Gruble pass to give the Vols a 7-0 lead, but Texas stormed back and led 14-7 through three quarters.

"The fourth quarter belongs to us" was one of Neyland's pet sayings, and his Vols wore down the bigger Longhorns in the final period. Fullback Andy Kozar burst through the Texas line for TD runs of one and five yards to give the Vols a classic victory.

SUGAR BOWL, Jan. 1, 1986
Tennessee 35, Miami 7

There was magic in the air for the Vols that memorable night in the Superdome. Miami, ranked no. 2, was going for the national championship. Tennessee 8-1-2 in the 1985 season, was playing without its injured superstar, quarterback Tony Robinson. And when the Hurricanes suckered the Vols with a fake punt, it looked like a mismatch.

It was, the other way around. Tennessee's blitzing, stunting defense sacked All-America quarterback Vinny Testaverde and forced six turnovers. Robinson's replacement, fifth-year senior Daryl Dickey, passed for one touchdown and led four other scoring drives to win the game's outstanding player award, and tailback Jeff Powell shook loose on a 60-yard touchdown run. In historic terms, that rousing win sent out the signal that Tennessee was back among the top ranks, a situation that still prevails as the 1997 Vols go after the school's 22nd bowl victory this postseason.

Former Vol

Jimmy Weatherford (1966-68)

Jimmy Weatherford came to the Vols from Dalton, Ga., was an All-America selection in 1968 as a defensive back.

It was Weatherford who put the clamps on Alabama receiver Dennis Homan in the 1967 game at Legion Field, allowing Albert Dorsey to step front and center to pick off three passes in the fourth quarter to seal the Vol win. He was named southern back of the week for his play against the Tide in 1968.

"He looks on man-to-man play as a personal challenge and does an even better job than he does in zone assignments," Vol secondary coach George McKinney said back in 1968. "The reason is that he is determined that nobdy is going to get the best of him."

Weatherford now lives in Macon, Ga., and is president of Crown Candy Company in Macon.

Jimmy Weatherford was a key part of Vol secondaries from 1966-68 and earned All-America honors in his senior season.

No. 6 vs. No. 3...

Vols Fall To Longhorns In Final Race

Senior co-captain Jeremy Linn set the stage for the meet's final race with his convincing win in the 200 backstroke. The Vols and the Longhorns were tied going into the final race at 113, where Texas captured the race and the meet, winning 124-119.

The University of Tennessee's sixth-ranked swimming and diving team put 41 consecutive home victories on the line, as they played host to third-ranked Texas on Saturday, November 22 at the Student Aquatic Center. When the early season showdown of collegiate swimming and diving powers was finished, Tennessee came up only one-half body length short of upsetting Texas in an exciting meet that featured four lead changes, and was decided by the meet's final event. As it turned out, the Vols (3-1) fell by a score of 124-119 as Neil Walker of Texas brought the Longhorns from behind on the final leg of the 400 freestyle relay to provide the winning margin.

"It was great competition between two great teams, " remarked Tennessee head coach John Trembley. "They saved their two best freestylers for the 400 free relay and that was the difference."

Tennessee jumped out to an early lead by winning the 400 medley relay as they have done in each of the season's four meets. The Vols followed the 400 medley relay with victories by sophomore Matt Hall in the 1000 freestyle and freshman Zane DeWitz in the 200 freestyle. The swims by Hall and DeWitz were career best performances.

Texas battled back by claiming the top spot in the next five events, including two wins by Walker and a sweep of the top three spots in one-meter diving. Keeping the Vol hopes alive were strong performances by the sprint freestylers and freshman butterfly swimmer Joel Shapiro. Senior captain Craig Gilliam led the way in the 50 freestyle with juniors Adam Engle and Brendan Crowley each swimming times that topped the team's previous season best. In the 200 butterfly, Shapiro, who has won all three butterfly events on the season, raced to lifetime best performance in finishing second.

Senior Sean Stringer broke the Longhorn run by capturing the 200 backstroke victory, his fourth on the season, putting the Vols back in the lead by virtue of yet another season best time. Hall became Tennessee's only double winner when he claimed his second first-place finish on the day in the 500 freestyle.

Freshman Gabi Chereches joined in the effort by challenging Texas diver Ryan Harmon for the three-meter diving win, falling less than three points short in second place and placing Texas back in control.

In the meet's next to last event, the 200 breaststroke, senior captain Jeremy Linn provided a familiar sight for Vol fans with his convincing win that tied the score at 113, and set the stage for the meet's dramatic finish.

"We had some good swims," commented Coach Trembley. The Vols produced season best performances in 12 of the meet's 13 events, a testament to the teams' ability to rise to the challenge set forth by their opponent, a quality that has become characteristic of Trembley's squads. Additionally, the Vols swam seven times that meet the provisional qualifying standard for the NCAA Championships. The second-place performance of freshman Gabi Chereches in three-meter diving also qualified for the NCAA Zone B Diving Meet.

The most valuable swimmer award for the Vols was earned by sophomore Matt Hall who won the 1000 freestyle and the 500 freestyle and also finished fourth in the 200 butterfly. Both of Hall's victories were season best performances for the Lexington, N.C. native, with the time of 9:12.30 in the 1000 freestyle being a career best.

"Matt Hall passed for 530 yards today. What he did was equal to (Tennessee quarterback) Peyton Manning's performance against Kentucky," remarked Coach Trembley.

The loss at home was the Vols' first in 22 meets and the first at home in 41 home dual-meets, a streak that dated back to a loss to Florida on January 16, 1988. In addition, the loss marks the first time that Trembley has experienced a loss at home in 10 years as head coach.

The Vols will hit the water on Dec. 5-7 in Athens, Ga., for the Georgia Invitational, and also on Dec. 5-7 in Austin, Texas, at the Texas Invitational. The Vols' final home meet will not come until Feb. 7, when they host the Florida Gators in SEC action.

—Josh Thurman

This Week In Big Orange Country

Side Court

Normally that would be a term used in volleyball, but not here! No, this is a word used to describe the student section that has taken over the southwest corner of Thompson-Boling Arena when the Vols take to the court.

It is a great pleasure for head basketball coach Jerry Green who has sought to bring the fans closer to the action. They are close, close enough that the men in stripes need no hearing aid to decipher what is being said. Faint of heart need not be in "Rashard's Row."

"We are starting to win some people over with our style of basketball," said Coach Green.

The Vols have averaged 75 points in their three wins and the fans, most notably the student section, have been a big reason that the team is doing well.

A once quiet arena taken over by opposing teams fans has now become a hostile environment for the opposition. In Tennessee's two come from behind wins, the fans have helped sparked the late second half runs that have enabled the Vols to start off 3-0 against some pretty good competition (Miami of Ohio and UNC-Asheville have both participated in the NCAA Tournament the couple of years and have the talent to win their respective conferences).

Besides "Rashard's Row" the Vols have acquired a "Sixth Man" squad. The two units work in unison to provide the Tennessee offense with a much needed lift. It has been a long time since a crowd of 12,000 sounded like a full house. In the win over Miami, the crowd was absolutely deafening as a player missed both foul shots, which was a crucial factor in the final minutes of the game. And in the win over UNC-Asheville, the fans helped spark the young Vols in the second half as Tennessee's defense held the opposition to nine field goals in the last 20 minutes.

The fans have been waiting for a style of basketball that is fun and fast-paced, They have it, are coming out and taking their seats early. A local broadcaster noticed that as he got ready to prepare for the broadcast, he noticed that the student section was full. That was at 7:10 p.m., 27 minutes before tipoff. This from a group that could not even fill up their part of the arena when arch-nemesis Kentucky came to town.

If Tennessee is to be successful at home this season, it must have the help from the fans. In the early going the fans are showing up and in bigger numbers. In the Vols third game, the official attendance was over 13,312. Not bad for a 7:30 game that was on FOX SportSouth, and that was played on a church night in November. What will December and January look like? If the Vols keep winning opposing teams may not want to find out. A "Sixth Man" on the court is awful hard to defend with only five players.

Coach Green said open the doors and show them a style of play that was fun and they will come. Freshman Tony Harris made a comment to a local reporter after the win over UNC. "I'll bet this isn't anything like last year." He's right.

—Donnell Field

The Vols are off to a quick start and the fans are a great reason for the 3-0 start.

Diamonds and Banners

On Friday, Nov. 21, the Lady Vols celebrated a very special occasion - winning their second straight NCAA Basketball Championship. To commemorate the event, the University of Tennessee presented the Lady Vols with an NCAA Championship Banner and their NCAA Championship rings.

It was a memorable evening as replays of last year's championship game was displayed up on the big screens within the confines of thompson-Boling Arena.

Adorning the ceiling at the northeast end of the Arena are a slew of banners commemorating the Lady Vols' SEC Championships and Tournament titles, trips to the AIAW and the NCAA Tournaments, Final Fours, and the NCAA Titles.

Another banner now rests beside those already hanging for their 1997 NCAA Championship.

As for the rings, they are unique in their own way. The Lady Vols celebrate their NCAA and SEC Championships with distinctively designed rings. In addition to the black onyx and gold NCAA rings given to the players immediately following the championship game, the Tennessee coaches also designing a special NCAA Championship ring.

The Lady Vols celebrated their fifth national title with the raising of the NCAA banner and new championship rings.

In 1987, a Lady Vol championship coin medallion bordered by a gold rope was presented to the players and staff. Depending on the individual taste, the medallion was worn as a drop necklace, mounted to be worn as a ring or incorporated into a bracelet. For championship number two in 1989, a distinctive gold ring featuring several diamonds on an oval face was the design.

A Rolex-style gold watch with diamonds for numbers and a gold ring with three large diamonds mounted vertically in the center commemorated title number three in 1991. Perhaps the most eye-catching of all championship rings, the 1996 ring sports four large diamonds across the front of a solid gold ring.

This year's ring was dazzling. It featured a gold ring, diamond shaped on top featuring five diamonds; a large diamond in the middle surrounded by four smaller diamonds. On one side it says "97 Pride", and the other "Back to Back." On top, in each of the corners outside of the smaller diamonds it says "Tennessee Lady Vols National Champions."

When a Lady Vol in any of UT's 11 sports wins her first SEC regular season or tournament title, she gets a gold Lady Vol SEC Championship coin ring bordered by gold rope with diamonds on the face. As more SEC titles are won during an athlete's career, more diamonds are added to the ring.

Could ring number six be too far away - Only Time Will Tell!

—Donnell Field

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VASF News and Notes

NCAA Q & A

This week we continue our look at the of actions and gifts not allowed to be given to prospects or current student-athletes by University of Tennessee athletic representatives. All of the actions below are prohibited by the NCAA and could subject the University of Tennessee to NCAA penalties as the VASF and the University of Tennessee are responsible for the actions of their athletic representatives. Remember all VASF supporters are considered official athletic representatives of the University.

QUESTION: Can I help out someone who is not yet a prospect? Suppose a student entering his senior year of high school attends a camp at UTK. Can I talk to him about going to school up there? Can I help pay for him to go if he is upon hard times?

ANSWER: No. VASF members and other UT athletic representatives are not allowed to pay any part of fees associated with a prospect's participation in a summer camp, or when that prospect makes any type of visit to campus. These rules not allowing anyone to pay anything also apply to a prospective student-athlete's family or friends. Athletic representatives also may not entertain any high school or junior college coaches at any location, nor may they arrange for any costs incurred by athletic talent scouts regarding a prospect. While these rules are strict, there are some special cases, contact Malcolm McInnis, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, at (423) 974-3871 Watch this space next week for more NCAA Q & A.

Point System Question of the Week

The VASF staff members hit the road this month in an effort to fully explain the new point system. Mike Hamilton and John Currie traveled all across the state of Tennessee during November. Here is one common question the VASF staff members have received during the past week, both on the road and in the VASF office.

QUESTION: "If I am ranked 2,579, does that mean I will get some of the 8,000-plus ticket allotment the next time Tennessee plays football at Alabama?"

ANSWER: Rankings are provided to show everyone where they stood overall, among all donors. For events with high donor demand, such as away game tickets, annual contribution levels will still apply. Rankings will determine eligibility, but the donor's annual giving category will determine the number of tickets. A donor's rank within his / her annual giving category is determined by the point system.

Some Plateau level donors may be ranked above Trailblazer and Mountaineer level donors on the overall system, but may receive a different set of benefits than Trailblazers or Mountaineers because the Trailblazer and Mountaineer levels are higher annual-giving levels. Use of the point system will center on attempting to balance historical participation and loyalty with the needs to achieve each year's annual giving goals.

Overall rankings are provided to show a benchmark. The VASF wants all donors to know where they rank among all levels. For example, imagine that a Foothills donor is ranked 3,000 overall. Let's say that when tickets were allocated for a certain away game, all Trailblazers ranked 7,000 and above overall are to receive tickets. Now, if that Foothills donor so chooses, he/she has the option to increase their annual gift in order to receive tickets. In the future, the VASF office will be able to tell donors two things. 1. Which donor levels received benefits. 2. What the overall ranking was of the last person to receive certain benefits. With the point system, all the donors have quantifiable data upon which to decide if they want to voluntarily raise their annual contributions to be eligible for certain benefits. The overall rankings eliminate a great deal of the guesswork as to whether or not a person would get benefits if their annual donation were raised.

Update on VASF Point System Appeals

The VASF staff is considering each appeal very closely. After an appeal has been resolved, that donor will be notified. Responses to all point system appeals should be mailed by the end of December. An updated point standings sheet will also be included in the response.

Bowl Application Mailing

Bowl applications should be mailed around the first part of December. While it is unknown which bowl Tennessee will be invited to at press time, applications will be sent out as soon as the selections are made. Donor minimums and ticket allocations by contributor levels have yet to be determined contingent upon the size of the allotment Tennessee receives.

Donor deadline of March 1

The VASF would like to remind everyone that 1998 points will be awarded only for monies actually received by March 1, 1998. Matching grants gifts points will be posted as soon as the company contributions are received in the VASF office. The VASF wants to encourage those donors with matching grants to get them in early to allow the most time possible to get their corporate matching gifts into the VASF office by March 1, 1998.

1997 Tax Year Deduction Deadline

The 1997 tax year is drawing to a close and the VASF would like to thank all the members who have made their 1998 gifts early. This is a good opportunity to make your 1998 contribution and still receive 1997 tax credit. In order to allow adequate processing time, all 1998 early credit card donations must be received in the VASF office by Dec. 15, 1997. All 1998 early check or cash donations must be postmarked or be received by Dec. 31, 1997.

—Steve Sams

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Vols Finish 4th In Cross Country

The Vol harriers completed their season on Nov. 15, at the District IX Cross Country Championships in Birmingham. The Vols finished a strong fourth, but were unable to qualify any runners for the NCAA Championships.

The Vols tallied 164 points, 15 points behind third place South Florida and 104 points behind team champion Alabama. Florida finished in second with 142 points.

Tennessee's strongest showing came from senior Bob Dickie who finished in eighth-place with a time of 31:19.60 on the 10,000 meter course. In all the Vols placed three runners in the top 30 finishers. Joining Dickie was junior Doug Ellington who finished in 16th-place with a time of 31:44, while senior Mike Moran crossed in a time of 32:05.20 to finish in 26th-place.

Manning Named To GTE/CoSIDA Academic Team

Senior Vol quarterback acquired another honor as he was named to the GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-District Team for IV. The announcement came on Nov. 17th as the Vols prepared for the Kentucky game.

Manning is seeking his Master's Degree in sport administration and currently carries a 3.5 GPA. The All-America Team will be announced on Dec. 9.

Vol Baseball Camp

The Volunteer baseball staff will hold its annual Christmas Camp on Dec. 27-28 (Sat. & Sun.) for ages 7-12. On Dec. 29-30, the camp will be available for ages 13-seniors to be. Cost of the camps are $140.00 for each child. For more information, contact Cindy Conner at the UT Baseball Office at (423) 974-2057.

Vols Sign 10 Players

Head Coach Rod Delmonico announced the signing of 10 players during the early signing period. Of the 10, eight will be freshmen for the 1999 season and two are from the junior college ranks. There are four pitchers, five infielders and one outfielder among the signees. Also, six of the 10 are native Tennesseans.

The signees are: Chris Burks, Prospect, Ky. (St. Xavier HS); Daniel Curtis, Chattanooga (Central HS); Steve Daniel, Jacks Creek (Chester County HS); Eric Fisher, Cincinnati, Ohio (Moeller HS); Brandon Hopkins, Knoxville (Farragut HS); Bobby Huddleston, Montgomery, Ala. (Trinity Presbyterian); Thomas Kincer, Knoxville (The Kings Academy); Doug Kunicki, Knoxville (Bearden HS); Matt Murphy, Delano (Wallace CC-Ala.); and Devon Nicholson, Orangevale, Calif. (Sacramento City CC- Calif.).

Expansion Draft

Three former diamond Vols were taken in the 1997 Major League Baseball Expansion Draft. They were Mike DeFelice, catcher, of the St. Louis Cardinals and Bubba Trammel, outfielder, from the Detriot Tigers. They were picked by the Tampa Bay Devilrays. The Arizona Diamondbacks chose third baseman Joe Randa from the Pittsburgh Pirates.Cross Country Ninth at Districts, Ritter Earns All-Region

For the first time since 1990, a Lady Vol runner earned all-region accolades at the NCAA District 3 Cross Country Championships in Birmingham, Ala., on Nov. 15. In earning the honor, sophomore Kristen Ritter finished 21st with a time of 18:15, the highest placing since 1990 when four runners crossed the line in the top 20. As a team, Tennessee claimed ninth, its best finish since also placing ninth in 1992, while Florida captured the title. Following Ritter among the Lady Vols were sophomore Mindy Watkins in 45th, sophomore Meghan Mantlo in 61st, senior Dorothy Denko in 81st, sophomore Amy Bartosik in 85th and freshman Katherine Green in 91st.

Volleyball To Play Alabama In SEC Tournament

Tennessee will look to snap an eight-match losing streak in the first round of the SEC Tournament, when the Lady Vols take on Alabama at the University of Georgia. UT last won its opening match in 1988 when it defeated Florida. As the Eastern Division's fourth seed, Tennessee defeated the Tide, the Western Division's fifth seed, in four games in early October, marking the first time since 1991 UT won the regular-season matchup against its SEC first-round opponent. A Tennessee victory over 'Bama, would pit the Lady Vols and Western Division top seed and 23rd-ranked Arkansas, who received a first-round bye.

Golf Places Fifth in Final Fall Tournament

No. 12 Tennessee completed the fall golf season with a fifth-place finish at the Golf World - Palmetto Dunes Collegiate Invitational in Hilton Head, S.C., from Nov. 14-16. The Lady Vols were led by the performances of its seniors, Erin Kurczewski, who placed ninth with a 225 - her first top-10 finish of the season — Rachel Thompson, who claimed 19th with a 229 and Skyli Yamada in 23rd with a 230.

UT carded a 916, one shot behind Tulsa in fourth at 915, while Arizona State took the crown with an 897.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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Vols Open Season With Four Wins

An exciting and successful start.

Two come from behind wins have highlighted the Vols season thus far as they are off to a 4-0 start. Here is a recap of the games played from Nov. 17 to Nov. 23.

Tennessee 74, Austin Peay 65

The Vols ended the halfway point of their eight-game homestand with a hard-fought 74-65 win over the Governors of Austin Peay. The Gov's returned two All-Ohio Valley Conferences players and were 2-0 entering the contest.

The Vols withstood several charges by the Gov's, as sophomore Vegas Davis came off the bench to hit three clutch three-pointers, part of his 13 point effort, along with the help of freshman point guard Tony Harris dropped in 14 points and C.J. Black finished with 10 points.

At the half, the scored was knotted at 28, as the Vols shot a paltry 25.8 percent from the floor. They stayed in the game however with their 11 of 14 performance from the free throw line, but they held the Gov's to 38.2 percent shooting from the floor and one free throw attempt in the first half.

The story was the play of Davis who gave the Vols a much needed offensive boost in the second half, and the Vols hitting the free throws down the stretch that won the game. A sluggish start kept the Gov's in the game, along with the hot-shooting of Gov's forward Reggie Crenshaw, who finished with 20 points on the day. But, it was Tennessee winning the game at the charity stripe where the Vols hit on 34 of 49 attempts, compared to the Gov's 7-14. Tennessee finished with a 31 percent shooting performance from the floor, their lowest output of the season.

With the win the Vols improved to 4-0, the Vols best start since the 1989-90 season when the Vols won 11 of their first 12 games before finishing the regular season at 19-11. Coincidently, it was the last time the Vols went to the NCAA tournament.

Austin Peay (2-1)

Powers 0-3 0-0 0, Witherspoon 1-2 1-5 3, Crenshaw 8-12 1-1 20, Sibbitt 3-9 2-2 10, Halliburton 3-7 1-2 7, Jackson 9-16 1-2 19, Hallatt 1-3 0-0 2, Ivory 0-3 0-0 0, Combs 0-1 1-2 1, Tuck 1-5 0-0 3, Stewart 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 26-62 7-14 65.

Tennessee (4-0)

Black 2-6 6-8 10, Davis 3-6 4-6 13, Hathaway 2-8 1-2 6, Wharton 0-6 4-6 4, Tony Harris 4-12 6-6 14, Jones 2-4 5-6 9, Torrey Harris 2-3 5-7 9, Victor 2-7, 1-4 5, Green 0-2 2-4 2, Lee 0-1 0-0 0, Baker 0-2 0-0 0, Moore 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS 18-58 34-49 74.

***Halftime score** - Tennessee 28 Austin Peay 28. 3-point field goals - Austin Peay 6 (Crenshaw 3, Sibbitt 2, Tuck 1), Tennessee 4 (Davis 3, Hathaway 1). Rebounds - Austin Peay 35 (Powers 7, Crenshaw 7), Tennessee 51 (Davis 9, Torrey harris 9). Assists - Austin Peay 18 (Powers 5), Tennessee 8 (Hathaway 2, Tony Harris 2, Jones 2). Fouls - Austin Peay 28, Tennessee 18. Fouled out - Witherspoon, Crenshaw. A - 13,306.*

Tennessee 75, UNC-Asheville 69

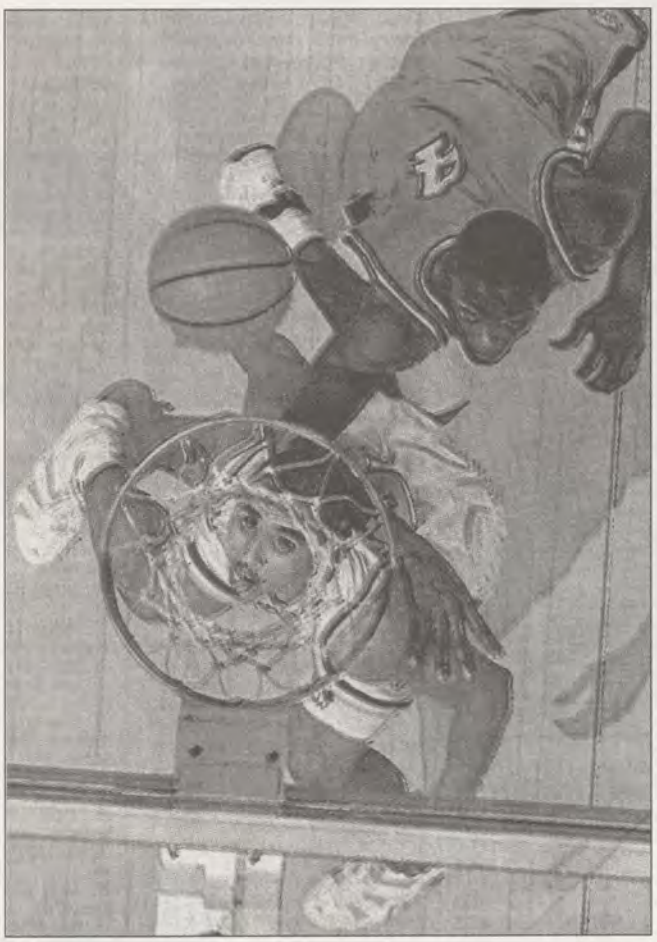
The second of the two come from behind wins. This one was not as dramatic though, but the Vols trailed by as many as 13 in the second half before coming back to win.

Brandon Wharton led the Vols attack with 20 points including four in the final minute which held off any charge the Bulldogs could make. In fact, it was Wharton who tied the game at 59 with 4:11 left in the game with two free throws.

Freshman point guard Tony Harris had a career high with 20 points, and C.J. Black added 16.

Josh Pittman led the way for Asheville with 31 points, and Kevin Martin tossed in 14.

The Vols found themselves trailing 41-29 at the half, before they started chipping away at the lead. Slowly but surely the Vols chipped away at the lead. The half started



The Vol basketball squad is off to its best start since the 1988-89, when the Vols won 11 of their first 12 games, as the Vols are 4-0.

with a Tony Harris 3-pointer and that was capped off by a Wharton three which pulled the Vols to within 46-40. The Vols later went on a 20-8 run to find themselves with a 72-65 lead with 21 seconds left in the game, and they had their third win of the season.

Scoring Summary

UNC-Asheville (0-2)

Stevenson 2-4 1-2 5, Martin 5-7 4-6 14, Lommerse 2-3 1-1 5, Matthews 1-4 0-0 3, Pittman 11-21 7-8 31, Krieger 1-1 0-0 3, Earnhardt 0-0 0-0 0, Richardson 1-2 2-4 4, Smits 1-1 2-2 4, Coble 0-0 0-0 0, Flowers 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 24-43 17-23 69.

Tennessee (3-0)

Black 6-13 4-5 16, Green 0-2 0-0 0, Hathaway 2-5 4-7 8, Wharton 5-12 8-8 20, Tony Harris 7-16 3-5 20, Jones 1-5 1-2 3, Victor 3-3 2-5 8, Baker 0-0 0-0 0, Lee 0-2 0-0 0, Torrey Harris 0-0 0-2 0, Davis 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 24-59 22-34 75.

***Halftime score** - UNC-Asheville 41-29. 3-point field goals - UNC-Asheville 4 (Matthews, Pittman 2, Krieger),Tennessee 5 (Wharton 2, Tony Harris 3). Rebounds - UNC-Asheville 26 (Stevenson 6), Tennessee 34 (Black 6, Hathaway 6, Victor 6). Assists - UNC-Asheville 17 (Martin 6), Tennessee 11 (Green 3, Wharton 3). Total fouls - UNC-Asheville 28, Tennessee 24. Technical fouls - Tennessee 2 (Tony Harris, Black). A - 13,312.*

Tennessee 75, Miami (Ohio) 74

In perhaps the most exciting game Thompson-Arena has seen in recent years, the Vols fought back from a 72-63 deficit with 2:11 left in the game.

The comeback went like this - Tony Harris hit one of two free throws followed by a jumper from DeShay Jones. Harris followed that with a layup, and Wharton drained a 3-pointer to pull the Vols to within 72-71.

After two missed free throws by Miami, a Wharton layup gave the Vols the lead. Miami answered back with a jumper in the lane to hold a 74-73 lead with under 10 seconds left in the game.

The Vols appeared to turn the ball over on the inbounds pass, but Charles Hathaway drew a charge to give possession back to the Vols. Tony Harris then took the inbounds pass, raced the length of court, missed the layup, but Hathaway was there for the putback to give the Vols the win.

Tony Harris led the Vols with 18 points. Hathaway finished with 17 points and eight rebounds, and Wharton tossed in 13.

Wally Szczerbiak had a game-high 31 points, with Damon Frierson scoring he Jerry Green Era has gotten off to 26 for the Redhawks.

Scoring Summary

Miami, Ohio (0-1)

Szczerbiak 11-20 6-6 31, Ensminger 0-1 0-0 0, Estick 1-1 2-4 4, Frierson 9-22 6-8 26, Taylor 2-5 0-2 4, Locklier 3-5 0-0 6, Lethunya 1-5 1-2 3, Allendorf 0-0 0-0 0, Alexander 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 27-59 10-22 74.

Tennessee (2-0)

Lee 0-2 2-2 2, Black 4-9 1-1 9, Hathaway 5-8 7-8 17, Wharton 5-17 0-1 13, Tony Harris 6-13 2-3 18. Torrey Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Green 2-6 0-0 4, Jones 4-6 0-0 8, Victor 1-2 2-4 4, Davis 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 27-64 14-19 75.

***Halftime score** - Tennessee 43-34. 3-point goals - Miami 5 (Szczerbiak 3, Frierson 2), Tennessee 7 (Wharton 3, Tony Harris 4). Rebounds - Miami 47 (Szczerbiak 10), Tennessee 29 (Hathaway 8). Assists - Miami 12 (Taylor 4), Tennessee 16 (Wharton 4, Green 4, Jones 4). Total fouls - Miami 19, Tennessee 19. A - 12,788.*

—Rob Hardin

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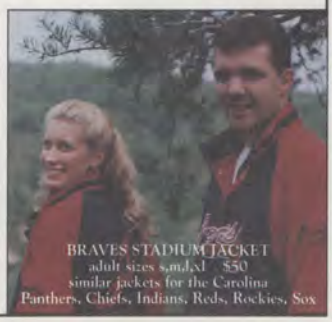

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SAFEGARD

Lady Vol Hoops Action...

SET TO DEFEND TITLE

The Lady Vols opened up their 1997-98 season with an SEC conference game agianst the Ole Miss Rebels at Thompson-Boling Arena. The first of two games at the arena before hitting the road for the defending national champions.

They opened up their campaign with a convincing 92-54 thrashing of an outmanned and outquicked Lady Rebel squad. Leading the way for the Lady Vols was freshman Semeka Randall with 24 points on 10 of 12 shooting and Chamique Holdsclaw who finished with 23 points.

Tennessee trailed only once, that coming in the first two minutes of the contest as Mississippi led 2-0 with 18:49 to go in the half. Tennessee came storming back, and with 11 minutes to go they took an 0-2 game into a 22-6 margin.

From there the Lady Vols only stretched the lead as they went into the locker room up 42-21.

Tennessee gained the 21 point margin with a tenacious full-court press and hard pressing man-to-man defense.

The second half would get no better for the Rebels as Tennessee stretched its lead quickly, going on a 13-5 run for a 55-26 advantage with 15:16 to play.

With 11 minutes to play they led by 30 (65-35), and even had a 40 point lead with 1:24 to play.

The Lady Vols forced Ole Miss into 28 turnovers, while only gving the Rebels 13 opportunities themselves. Tennessee also had 15 steals and 15 assists on the evening, as they opened up the season with the 38 point victory.

Tennessee (1-0): *Holdsclaw 9-14, 4-5 23, Laxton 1-3, 2-2 4, Stephens 2-7, 4-6 8, Elzy 0-1, 0-0 0, Jolly 1-6, 4-4 6, Randall 10-12, 4-6 24, 4-6 24, Geter 4-9, 0-2 8, Catchings 5-12, 2-3 13, Butts 0-1, 4-10 4, Greene 1-2, 0-0 2. Totals 33-67, 24-38 92.*

Ole Miss (0-1): *Adkins 2-10, 2-4 6, Bethley 12-18, 3-5 29, Gadd 1-2, 0-1 2, Murphy 0-3, 0-0 0, Myatt 2-6, 0-0 4, Vollrath 1-5, 2-2 4, Dorsey 3-4, 0-0 6, Bantz 1-6, 0-0 3, Signaigo 0-0, 0-2 0, Tables 0-0, 0-0 0. Totals 22-54, 7-14 54.*

Att. 7798.

Tennessee's next game pitted the No. 1 (our Lady Vols) team in the country versus No. 2 (La. Tech.). In one of the earliest battles from the nations two top teams, this game was a war.

The Lady Vols battled a veteran team, returning all five starters from last season, and prevailed under a tenacious second-half defense that turned a 35-36 point deficit at the half to a 75-61 triumph over the Lady Techsters.

Tennessee hurt themselves in the first half as they shot 33 percent, missing many easy shots. The good news is that they controlled the boards at the half (27-19 , of which 13 of those were offensive rebounds) and were able to use that same aggresion in their defense the final 20 minutes.

The Lady Vols got great help from the freshman as Teresa Geter scored 11 points, but had five blocks in the second half. Fellow freshman Tamika Catchings dropped in 17 points and nine rebounds, while Samika Randall had 11 points and three steals.

Two-time All-America Chamique Holdsclaw is off to a good start in her first three games.

The night, however, seemed to belong to Chamique Holdsclaw who played 37 minutes on her way to tossing in 24 points, 11 rebounds, two steals and three assists. She elevated her game to another level as the team went on a 23-8 run to subdue a very good Techster squad.

Tennessee (2-0): *Holdsclaw 11-20 2-2 24, Stephens 0-7 0-0 0, Catchings 5-8 5-8 17, Elzy 4-8 2-4 10, Jolly 0-4 2-2 2, Geter 5-9 1-4 11, Randall 3-13 5-6 11, Clement 0-1 0-0 0, Laxton 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-70 17-26 75.*

La. Tech (0-1): *Maxwell 1-13 2-2 4, Wilson 7-9 0-0 14, A. Burras 8-12 1-3 17, Scheppman 0-4 0-0 0, Jackson 5-18 1-4 14, Bowman 1-2 0-0 2, Stallworth 2-8, 6-8 10, Gilmore 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-66 10-17 61.*

Att. 16,490.

The Lady Vols returned to where Coach Summitt began her college basketball career in a 73-32 win at UT-Martin. The Lady Vols faced Vermont on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Arena. Results are on p.7 under **Weeknd Notes**.

—Donnell Field

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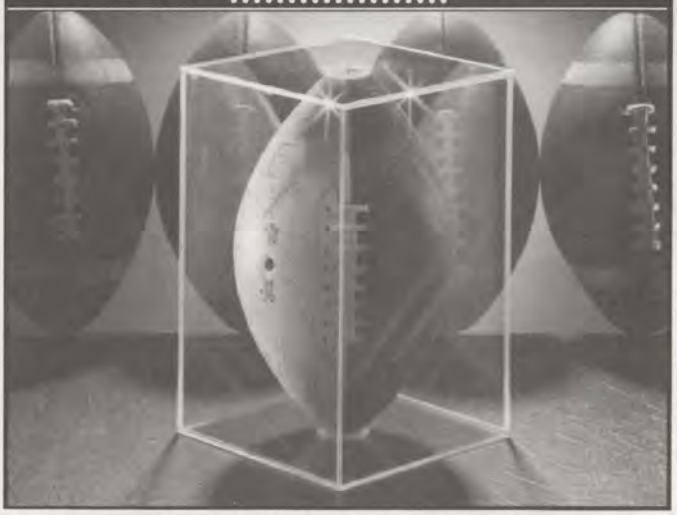

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The Last Word...

"A Look Back at Road Trips"

A football trip with the Vols...

What are they like, those 30-odd hours from the time the traveling squad leaves Knoxville, on through a game the next afternoon and up until the moment the plane noses down at home early Saturday night?

It all begins at the Knoxville airport with Gus Manning herding everyone off the bus and aboard the DC-7 charter that carries the team to its destination Friday afternoon. A football weekend for the Vols is Manning counting noses, wondering about a missing passenger and then realizing he hadn't counted himself.

It's a limbering up workout Friday afternoon at the site of the game and Jimmy Dunn worrying about whether the phones have been installed from the press box to the bench. Invariably it turns out they have been.

It's Richmond Flowers, the aspiring J.D. Morgan of the squad, checking the closing stock market quotations, marveling at the growth Braniff Airlines enjoyed in recent days and kicking himself for not buying when it was cheaper.

A steak dinner at 5:30, a movie at 6:45 and lights out at 10:30 -- that's the routine of life on the road with the Vols. So is breakfast at 7:30, roast beef and hot tea at 11:15 and hopping aboard the bus for the ride at the stadium at noon.

Marvin West asks if there is any news. Ed Harris stretches his Saturday morning breakfast over two hours in the hotel dining room. Broadcaster George Mooney, unbelievably perky at 8 a.m., inquires about a copy of the opponent's substitution order. Those things are all part of the trip.

So are Doug Dickey's chat with reporters at the end of Friday's practice, his visit to an alumni dinner that night and breakfast with a top area prospect's family the next morning.

A weekend with the Vols is Rick Marino and Mike Gooch asking for a deck of cards, John Boynton and Derrick Weatherford checking the Saturday morning cartoon schedule on TV and Bob Johnson gulping down two tablespoons of wheatgerm oil before leaving for the game.

It's loyalty hundreds of miles from home -- David Murphy writing a letter to his sweetheart and Charlie Fulton apologizing, "Sorry, but I've got a girl friend back home."

It's Doug Knotts and Bill Battle chewing the fat with UT supporters who help them recruit in Nashville... George McKinney writing out a list of questions to see if his defensive backs are mentally ready... It's Jimmy Dunn working out the game plan with his quarterbacks and Dewey Warren figuring out how many passes he'll get to throw... It's Ray Trail sitting in the lobby, taking in the passing parade.

Road life with the Vols means being the guests of the Friday night Grand Ole Opry and Terry Dalton being sadly disappointed because Loretta Lynn isn't on the show. It's Dalton, too, reading an architecture magazine, and Bill Young working a crossword puzzle.

It's Gary Wright, checking the crease in his pajamas and making sure he brought his sleeping pills... Publicity assistant Bud Ford hurrying across town to make final arrangements to bring the walking horse onto the field.

After the game, it's student trainer Tom Wall doling out pills in response to complaints about a variety of minor ailments.

The trip home, in a relaxed mood, is typified by Mike Price's gentle needling: "Bubba threw the ball so far I had to buy a ticket to get back in the stadium." And the other Vols, enjoying the banter, breaking out in with a big guffaw at the wit of their teammate.

Coming home is a steak dinner on the plane... and passing some of the game statistics around... and one of the backs allowing he didn't believe he carried the ball that many times. It's arriving at the airport and looking out the window to get an idea of the welcoming crowd. It's waving at 5000 people if you've just beaten UCLA and considerably fewer if you've just lost at Georgia Tech.

The trip ends as it began, with Pete Lobetti loading his White Star Lines bus and Gus Manning saying after the dozen or so who don't have other rides get aboard: "That's it, Pete. Take it away."

POSTSCRIPT: That's the way things were 30 years or so ago. There are some names you might have recognized from a glorious football past.

There's a lot that goes into a Vol road trip, as the enclosed story attests, even back then. The above picture was made in 1967 as the Vols prepared to go to UCLA that September. According to Gus Manning, the plane (L10-11) was one of the largest to land in Knoxville at that time.

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